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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,459	02/10/2004	Todd Vernon	45098.00012-ORD-U1	3493
67670	7590	05/06/2008		
West Corporation c/o Michele Zarinelli 11808 Miracle Hills Drive MSW11-Legal Omaha, NE 68154			EXAMINER GUPTA, MUKTESH G	
			ART UNIT 2144	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 05/06/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mazarinelli@west.com

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/776,459

**Applicant(s)**

VERNON ET AL.

**Examiner**

Muktesh G. Gupta

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. **Claim 1** is amended.
2. **Claims 1-30**, have been examined on merits and are pending in this application.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/20/2008 has been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6437818 to Ludwig et al., (hereinafter "Ludwig"), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5754765 to Danneels, Gunner et al., (hereinafter "Danneels").

**As to Claim 1**, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system for facilitating a multimedia collaboration session between a plurality of participants, comprising a plurality of client devices associated with each of the plurality of participants, each of the plurality of client devices configured to store endpoint address information associated with the associated participant, the multimedia collaboration system configured to (as stated in col. 5, line 61-67, Col. 18, lines 38-41, lines 63-65, and col. 6, lines 1-6, col. 19, line 21-31, plurality of collaborative multimedia workstations with multimedia devices connects to multimedia local area networks and wide area networks to provide audio/video/data networking for supporting collaboration among collaborative multimedia workstation users. System also allows sessions to be invoked from the keyboard. It provides a graphical editor to bind combinations of participants and session types to certain hot keys. Once the user selects the desired participant and session type, Collaboration Initiator module retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service):

automatically obtain the endpoint address information from each of the client devices (as stated in col. 5, lines 5-7, and col. 19, lines 28-46, col. 19, line 47-61, Ludwig teaches, process of obtaining endpoint address by the system. Collaboration Initiator Module retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service for the participants. Additional collaborative services—such as Mail, Application Sharing, Computer-Integrated Telephony and Computer Integrated Fax —are also available from the CMW by utilizing Collaboration Initiator module to **initiate the session** and to invoke the appropriate application necessary to manage

the collaborative session. When initiating asynchronous collaboration, the Collaboration Initiator contacts Directory Service for **address information** for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information.

Ludwig does not disclose that endpoint address, thus retrieved of the participants by the Directory Service is automatically obtained.

However Danneels does teach Conferencing system 100 of FIG. 1, which is capable of supporting multimedia conferencing over different types of transports, supporting LAN-based multimedia conferencing under different LAN transport standards. Automatic transport detection is implemented at run time to determine which transports can be used for an impending multimedia conferencing session. Each different supported transport will have a corresponding media dependent module (MDM), as stated in col. 32, lines 30-50, and col. 34, lines 55-63);

associate a plurality of endpoint addresses associated with a participant of the plurality of participant, with a network and with a media type (as stated in col. 3, lines 31-36, lines 47-50, Ludwig teaches, collaborative multimedia workstation (CMW) system wherein very high-quality audio and video capabilities can be readily superimposed onto an enterprise's existing computing and network infrastructure, including workstations, LANs, WAN. The system architecture also accommodates the situation in which the user's desktop computing and/or communications equipment provides varying levels of media-handling capability. The system also provides optimal routes for audio/video signals through the WAN. In a more complex

network, several multi-hop routes are available, and the routing system handles the decision making, which for can be based on network loading considerations. The resulting two-level network hierarchy, a MLAN 10 to MLAN 10, i.e., site-to-site service connects codecs with one another at connection endpoints. At the endpoints of a wide-area call, the WAN switching multiplexer routes audio/video signals directly from the WAN network interface through an available codec to MLAN 10 and vice versa.

Danneels also teach Conferencing system 100 of FIG. 1, where audio/video conferencing application 502 running on host processor 202 provides the top-level control of audio and video conferencing between a local conferencing system i.e., local site or endpoint, and a remote conferencing system i.e., remote site or endpoint. Audio/video conferencing application 502 controls local audio and video processing and establishes links with the remote site for transmitting and receiving audio and video over the ISDN, PSTN network or LAN network 110, which supports multiple transport media and multiple connections through Transport Independent Interface. TII library running on the host. Similarly, data conferencing application 504, also running on host processor 202, provides the top-level control of data conferencing between the local and remote sites, as stated in col. 5, lines 34-53, and col. 36, lines 20-24);

select appropriate endpoint address from the participant's client device based on type of request, the network and the media type (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-38, col. 20, lines 45-52, Ludwig teaches, collaborative multimedia system, where the user selects the desired participant and session type. Collaboration Initiator module

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161 retrieves necessary addressing information from Directory Service 66. In the case of a videoconference call, or data conferencing session, Collaboration Initiator then communicates with the Audio Video Network Manager AVNM to set up the necessary data structures and manage the various states of that call, to control A/V Switching Circuitry 30, have physical connections for audio in, audio out, video in and video out. For each device on the network, the AVNM combines these four connections into a port abstraction, wherein each port represents an addressable bidirectional audio/video channel. Each device connected to the network which can be integrated onto a single card for all media handling technology and communications has at least one port. Different ports may share the same physical connections on the switch, which selects the appropriate audio and video signals to be transmitted to/from each participant's CMW including activating any necessary devices such as the connection between the telephone and the CMW's audio I/O port, for the selected participants and invokes the appropriate collaboration tools with the obtained address information.

Danneels also teaches Conferencing system 100 of FIG. 1, where presenting the user with a list of possible callee addresses for the multimedia conferencing session, as part of a dialog box, the conferencing application 502 lists addresses that correspond to transports that the conferencing application 502 has automatically determined are available and loads corresponding media dependent module (MDM) as stated in col. 34, lines 55-63).

*It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ludwig's Collaborative multimedia system to incorporate Danneels's Automatic transport detection and loading corresponding media dependent module, for automatically obtaining the endpoint address information of the devices used over different types of networks and different types of media.*

*The motivation would have been for real time transmission of streaming media for collaboration to client's devices with address for different media and transport over different network*

*Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine these two references of Ludwig's and Danneels's disclosure in light of guaranteed communication for all types of network and media in a collaboration system.*

*As to Claim 2, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information is used to add a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in lines col. 6, lines 7-18, various other multimedia resources such as VCR, TV feeds are connected to multimedia LANs and there by accessible to individual collaborative multimedia workstations).*

*As to Claim 3, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information for each participant comprises endpoint address information for a plurality of endpoints (as stated in col. 8, lines 63-67, col. 9, lines 1-14, for connecting to all the desired participants multimedia LAN server controls*



to set up the required audio/video/data paths to conferees which in turn is endpoint address for participants as well as the associated devices in network paths).

***As to Claim 4, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein priority can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as stated in col. 37, lines 55-65, priority can be assigned to multiple collaborative services associated with participants).***

***As to Claim 5, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 3, wherein a hierarchy can be assigned to the plurality of endpoints for each participant (as stated in col. 10, lines 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-5, in case of several multiple hop routes available, the routing system handles the network hierarchy at the connection endpoints).***

***As to Claim 6, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is an audio conferencing component (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, a handset/headset jack enables the use of an integrated audio I/O device).***

***As to Claim 7, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 6, wherein the addition of the audio conferencing component includes the addition of telephonic conferencing via a telephonic network (as stated in col. 19, lines 47-67 and col. 20, line 1, Audio/Video Network Manager provides connection through a/v switches between telephone and collaborative multimedia workstation's audio I/O device).***

**As to Claim 8,** Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over a network that is separate from the telephonic network (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network)

**As to Claim 9,** Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 7, wherein the multimedia collaboration session occurs over one network and the added media component is associated with a second network (as stated in col. 7, lines 26-34, multimedia audio network is separate from the multimedia data network).

**As to Claim 10,** Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use separate access devices (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-6, multimedia audio network access devices are separate from the multimedia data network access devices).

**As to Claim 11,** Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 9, wherein the two networks use different addressing schemes (as stated in col. 7, lines 62-67 and col. 8, lines 1-22, data network uses different addressing schemes, the TCP/IP protocol suite for communicating with the server).

**As to Claim 12,** Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the collaboration session by automatically storing the endpoint address information for each of the plurality of participants as each participant joins the multimedia collaboration session (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, 65-67, col.

22, lines 1-25, when participants are joining the collaborative services, audio/video network manager module registers, stores and replicates to other service servers the network resources of participants and the end point addresses).

***As to Claims 13-14, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to facilitate the addition of a new media component to the multimedia collaboration session upon receipt of a query from a existing and new participant (as stated in Col. 24, line 48-60, col. 25, line 26-43 and col. 26, lines 13-22 new users are added along with there associated network/media devices as they are invited and when they want to join as an new participant to the collaborative session).***

***As to Claim 15, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises a uniform resource locator for a website (as stated in col. 8, lines 38-62 and col. 28, lines 14-28, for accessing multimedia documents hyperlinks provide endpoint address to those documents).***

***As to Claim 16, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoints address information comprises a telephone number (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38 and col. 19, lines 47-67, as part of computer integrated telephony, collaborative multimedia workstations have telephone with number which is an endpoint address for the telephone).***

***As to Claim 17, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint addresses information includes a list of addresses for the***

*associated participant* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, participants collaborative multimedia workstations have, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services with end point addresses).

**As to Claim 18,** *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the list of addresses corresponds to multiple client devices* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28—67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, fax/mail/telephone/audio/video services are provided by the corresponding devices).

**As to Claim 19,** *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically attempt to connect via each of addresses in the list of addresses until it achieves a successful connection* (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

**As to Claim 20,** *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 19, wherein the endpoint address information includes multiple phone numbers for the associated participant* (as stated in col. 16, lines 30-38, col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2 associated participant have telephone, fax and number associated with them).

**As to Claim 21,** *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 20, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to automatically dial each of the multiple phone numbers until it achieves a successful audio connection* (as

stated in col. 19, lines 28-67 and col. 20, lines 1-2, Collaborative Initiator Module initiates connections to collaborative services when participant joins the session).

***As to Claim 22***, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein it enables each participant to edit the participant's associated endpoint address information using the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 21, lines 19-30, lines 65-67 and col. 22, lines 1-25, lines 62-66, participants can select services they want and edit and update corresponding endpoint address associated with the service devices).

***As to Claim 23***, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the endpoint address information comprises an internet protocol address for a client device (as stated in col. 8, lines 12-22, collaborative multimedia workstation endpoint address is TCP/IP network protocol suite).

***As to Claim 24***, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia collaboration system is further configured to distribute the endpoint address information obtained to each participant (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21, lines 6-30, when participants select the services required, they register with service server which in turn replicates and distribute to other service servers).

***As to Claim 25***, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 24, wherein the endpoint address information distributed by the multimedia collaboration system can be stored on each of the participant's associated client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 59-67, col. 20, lines 1-2 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants endpoint

address distributed by service server enables participant to add other participants shown on there collaborative multimedia workstation as icons).

***As to Claim 26, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 1, wherein endpoint address information is automatically collected from each client device when an associated participant joins the multimedia collaboration session using the client device (as stated in col. 21 lines 6-30, lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-25, when participants joins a collaborative session using client devices, they register with service server which automatically collects the end point address of the client device).***

***As to Claim 27, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein the new media component is a video stream component (as stated in col. 29, lines 9-31, multimedia conference is recorded and played as video stream).***

***As to Claim 28, Ludwig teaches multimedia collaboration system of claim 27, wherein the endpoint address information obtained by the multimedia collaboration system can be distributed to client device associated with participants that wish to share video streams, and wherein the client devices can use the endpoint address information distributed to the client device to exchange the video streams between the client device (as stated in col. 19, lines 28-46 and col. 21 lines 6-30, participants can select the services they want and share with other participants video streams which are stored on servers with endpoint address associated for replay).***

***As to Claim 29, Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 28, wherein the client devices sharing the video streams share the video streams in a peer-***

*to-manner using the distributed endpoint address information* (as stated in col. 9, lines 4-14, col. 21 lines 65-67, and col. 22, lines 1-26, 55-61, Audio/Video switching is peer-to-peer basis between servers).

**As to Claim 30**, *Ludwig teaches a multimedia collaboration system of claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of central servers is configured to handle a different media component* (as stated in col. 21, lines 6-18, col. 28, lines 52-55, and col. 30 lines 28-30, multiple servers are used for collaborative services, service server, audio/video storage servers and data server for time-sensitive media and media that have synchronization requirements with other media components).

### **Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5999977 to Riddle; Guy G., and US Patent No. 6158903 to Schaeffer; Arnold et al., are cited for reference purpose only.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MG

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144